

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, the specification, drawings, and claims 20-23, 26, 27 and 32-37 have been amended. Claim 25 has been cancelled. Claims 20-24 and 26-37 are pending and under consideration.

Claims 32-37 have been amended to correct a minor numbering error.

In item 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner objects to the drawings. To address this objection, the specification has been amended to describe the reference characters NK1 through NK5, which are shown in FIG. 3. Also, FIG. 2 has been amended to label the reference characters noted by the Examiner, which reference characters were previously described in the specification.

In items 4 and 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner raises various objections to the claims. The claims have amended to address these objections. In item 6, the Examiner objects to claim 32. The deficiency mentioned by the Examiner could not be found. Perhaps the Examiner intended to object to the dependency of claim 32, which has been corrected.

In item 8 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that claims 25, 28, 36, and 38 contain allowable subject matter. The independent claims have been amended to include the limitations of original claim 25. Dependent claim 25 corresponds with the original claim 6. When the limitations of 25 were incorporated into the independent claims, a translation problem was corrected. As corrected, the network node receiving the connection setup message forwards the connection setup message to one or more other network nodes only if the one or more other network nodes each has a network address not entered in the received connection setup message.

At least in view of the Examiner's statement of allowability and the amendments to the independent claims, it is submitted that the claims patentably distinguish over the references cited by the Examiner.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is

requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: September 17, 2004

By: Mark J. Henry
Mark J. Henry
Registration No. 36,162

1201 New York Avenue, NW
Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on Sept 17, 2004
By: Mark J. Henry
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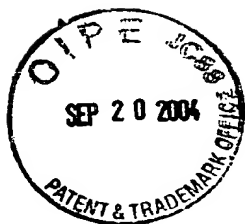


Fig 2

